

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-4331

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

108 N. Howard Street

historic

Jeans Fair

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 108 N. Howard Street

☐ not for publication

city, town Baltimore

☐ vicinity of

congressional district Seventh

state Maryland

county Baltimore

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Julius and Lore W. Levi

street & number 112 N. Howard Street

telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore

state and zip code MD 21201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse RHB2480

street & number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610

liber 114

city, town Baltimore

MD folio

state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town

state

146

7. Description

Survey No. B-4331

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count: 1

This circa 1875 commercial building faces east on N. Howard Street and abuts two partywall structures. The building is has three bays, three stories, and a painted brick facade. It has a street frontage of 20' and a depth of 64'6".

The first story has been substantially altered circa 1940-1950. It has a moderately recessed entrance in the middle bay that is flanked by display windows. The windows sit upon a foundation wall that is faced with blue enamelled panels. The panelling continues over the facade of the first story. An awning and a sign board are suspended over the first story.

The second story has three 1/1 sash windows with brick splayed jack arches. The sills are obscured by the blue enameled panels.

The third story has three 1/1 sash windows with brick splayed jack lintels and stone sills.

An elaborate cornice runs across the top. The projecting cornice has raised blind arches. An angled soffit runs below this; it has jig-sawn scrolled ventilator openings and applied ornamental scrolls. Scrolled brackets with elongated pendants with jig-sawn designs are positioned below the soffit. The drop of the brackets divide the cornice into three spandrel-like zones. Each spandrel is embellished with panels of jig-sawn ventilator openings.

A small pedimented dormer is situated on the gable roof between the first and second bays.

An attached back building extends from the first two bays of the main building. The back building faces the alley (State Street). It is two stories high, two bays long and one bay wide. The west wall has been altered; the old loading dock is now a ventilator. The second story loading dock is also blocked up. Both docks had wood lintels. A shed roof awning is suspended over the windows on the south wall. The west wall of the main building has windows in the third bay of the second and third stories.

The interior is finished with wallboard and acoustic tile ceiling.

8. Significance

Survey No. B-4331

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates circa 1875, 1940s Builder/Architect unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The architectural design of this three-story, three-bay building is a good example of a circa 1875 two-part commercial block. The first story would have been used for sales or display area and the upper stories would have been used as offices or light manufacturing areas. The single entrance with rear stair hall indicates that the building was constructed for one tenant with multiple operations. The facade is trimmed with lintels of simple brick splayed jack arches and an ornate, jig-sawn cornice that are typical of the mid-Victorian period. The overall design, however, is one of a relatively unembellished, spare commercial building whose owner's financial returns were invested in the business, not the building.

The building's style and massing are representative of several mid-century, three-story, two-part commercial blocks found on the mid and upper blocks of N. Howard and on the cross street of W. Saratoga Street. This particular example is notable for the severity of its facade, embellished only by the elaborate cornice.

This three-story building is part of a mixed three- and four-story block, reflecting the changing nature of land values between upper N. Howard (with two- and three-story buildings) and lower N. Howard Street (with four- and five-story buildings). The narrow street frontage, however, reveals the economic competition for lots along N. Howard Street.

In the circa 1940-1950 remodelled storefront, the use of traditional materials such as brick, plate glass, and structural steel framing were combined in new ways to create the popular recessed entrance flanked by large display windows. The deeply recessed, center-bay entrance permitted additional display areas along the vestibule walls.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-4331

Richard Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture (Washington, DC: Preservation Press, 1987).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Baltimore East Quad

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Diane Shaw		
organization	C.H.A.P., Room 1037	date	August 12, 1991
street & number	417 E. Fayette Street	telephone	(301) 396-4866
city or town	Baltimore	state	MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
301-514-7600

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

Geographic Organization:
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:
Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
Modern Period, alterations

Historic Period Themes:
Architecture
Economics

Resource Type:
Building

Historic Environment:
Urban

Historic Function and Use:
Commercial/Manufacturing

Known Design Source:
None

THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED
FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(d) OF THE CITY CHARTER
IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER
SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

W LEXINGTON ST

PARK AVE

N LIBERTY ST

N HOWARD ST

W FAIRMOUNT AVE

W FAIRMOUNT AVE

W FAYETTE ST

N EUTAW ST

MARION ST

MARION ST

B-4331

GIS data Courtesy of
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS





B-4331

108 N. Howard St.

Baltimore MD

Drane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Facade, east elevation

1/2



B-4331

108 N. Howard St (rear)

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Rear alley (west elevation)

2/2